

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OES-03 TRSE-00 AGR-05 COME-00 OMB-01

CIEP-01 /066 W

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R 221325Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8904

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2148

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINR, PINT, PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: CHANGE, RENEWAL AND CRITICISM IN GOVERNING STRUCTURE

REF: A) SOFIA 1977 B) SOFIA 1986

1. SUMMARY. KUBADINSKI REPLACES TRAYKOV AS CHAIRMAN OF FATHERLAND FRONT. EVIDENCE ACCUMULATES THAT POPOV RETAINS IMPORTANCE AFTER ELEVATION TO STATE COUNCIL. MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND MACHINEBUILDING CRITICIZED FOR PERMITTING FALSE REPORTING.

2. FATHERLAND FRONT. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF FATHERLAND FRONT ON NOVEMBER 20 UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY TODOR ZHIVKOV TO NAME DEPUTY PREMIER AND BCP POLITBURO MEMBER PENCHO KUBADINSKI TO REPLACE GEORGI TRAYKOV AS CHAIRMAN OF FATHERLAND FRONT COUNCIL. TRAYKOV'S REPLACEMENT FOR REASONS OF HEALTH HAS BEEN EXPECTED, PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING HIS  
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REMOVAL AS SECRETARY OF NATIONAL AGRARIAN UNION AND AS

FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF STATE COUNCIL (REFTELS). HIS NAME CONTINUES IN LEADERSHIP OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS, HOWEVER, AS HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF FATHERLAND FRONT, CHAIRMAN OF AGRARIAN UNION, AND AS DEPUTY (NOT FIRST DEPUTY) CHAIRMAN OF STATE COUNCIL.

3. AS CHAIRMANSHIP OF FATHERLAND FRONT HAD BEEN IN HANDS OF AGRARIAN UNION NATURAL ROTATION NOW BRINGS IT BACK TO BCP. NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO CHOICE OF KUBADINSKI. FATHERLAND FRONT CONTINUES TO BE TRANSPARENT FACADE FOR MYTH OF TWO PARTY SYSTEM.

4. POPOV AND GOVERNMENT CHANGES (REFTEL B). EVIDENCE NOW ACCUMULATING THAT ELEVATION OF IVAN POPOV AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF STATE COUNCIL WAS INDEED PROMOTION DESPITE EARLY SPECULATION TO CONTRARY. THERE HAS BEEN NO APPARENT DIMINUTION OF POPOV'S AUTHORITY OR PRESTIGE, AND HIS SUCCESSOR AS DEPUTY PREMIER, OGNAN DOYNOV, HAS NOT EMERGED AS PERSONALITY. AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WHO MET WITH POPOV AND DOYNOV SAID POPOV DOMINATED MEETING TO EXCLUSION OF DOYNOV WHO REMAINED UNKNOWN QUANTITY. ANOTHER AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WITH EXPERIENCE IN BULGARIA NOTED DECISIONS WERE STILL BEING REFERRED TO POPOV WITH DOYNOV NOT BEING MENTIONED.

5. GENERALLY ACCEPTED NOW THAT NOVEMBER 1 PERSONNEL CHANGES WERE CONTINUATION OF PROCESS WHICH BEGAN FIVE OR SIX MONTHS AGO OF STRENGTHENING AND RENEWING BULGARIAN LEADERSHIP (SEE SOFIA 1131 AND 1163). SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO BULGARIA SUGGESTED TO AMBASSADOR HERZ THAT DOYNOV, MLADENOV, AND OTHER YOUNG MEMBERS OF LEADERSHIP WERE BEING APPOINTED ON TRIAL BASIS AND WOULD BE REPLACED IF THEY DID NOT PERFORM.

6. CRITICISM OF AGRICULTURE AND MACHINEBUILDING MINISTERS. RABOTNICHESKO DELO REPORTS THAT AT "ONE OF LATEST" SESSIONS, BUREAU OF MINISTERIAL CVKIL CALLED TO "ATTENTION" OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE (KRUSTEV) AND OF MACHINEBUILDING (CHAKUROV) THAT THEY HAD NOT TAKEN ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO ROOT OUT FALSIFIED REPORTING BY ORGANIZATIONS UNDER THEIR

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JURISDICTION. THE SUBORDINATES MORE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FARED LESS WELL; TWO DIRECTOR-GENERALS OF STATE ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES WERE SUSPENDED FROM DUTY FOR THREE MONTHS, AND SEVERAL OTHERS WERE REPRIMANDED.

7. SUCH CRITICISM OF MINISTERS IS NOT UNIQUE, BUT IN PAST HAS SOMETIMES PRECEDED REPLACEMENT. IN VIEW OF CURRENT ATTITUDE TOWARD PERSONNEL CHANGES, KRUSTEV AND CHAKUROV

PROBABLY FEEL SOMEWHAT INSECURE.

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